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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ALGIERS 001163

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/07/2015

TAGS: [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [ASEC](#) [MR](#) [AG](#)

SUBJECT: GSPC COMMUNIQUE EXTOLS ATTACK IN MAURITANIA, LINKS IT TO FLINTLOCK EXERCISE

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 503

Classified By: Ambassador Richard W. Erdman, Reason 1.4 (D)

1. (C) The Algerian terrorist organization GSPC (Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat) issued a communique dated June 5 in which the GSPC claimed responsibility for the June 4 attack on a Mauritanian military outpost near the Malian border (reftel) in which at least 15 Mauritanian soldiers and 5 GSPC terrorists died. The communique, posted on the GSPC website (www.jihad-algerie.com) and signed by the group's "Media Committee," extols the attack as a victory for Muslims, a blow against Mauritanian President Ould Taya, whom it terms "the Karzai of Mauritania and the agent of the Jews," as well as a response to the Flintlock exercise currently underway in the Trans-Sahara region. The communique appeals to "Muslim youth in North Africa" to join the jihad. The text, which contains the GSPC's usual Koranic quotes and references to Islamic history, refers to the U.S. as "the enemy of God." While it does not include any reference to the GSPC's alliance with Al-Qaida, the Mauritania attack and the communique underscore the threat the GSPC continues to pose, not just in Algeria but increasingly throughout the Trans-Sahara region.

2. (U) The following is our informal and lightly edited translation of the communique's text:

Begin text:

In the name of God the Merciful and Compassionate

Praise be to God and His Prayers upon Muhammad and his People and Companions

The Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat

The Battle of Badr Mauritania (Note: This sentence is bolded and refers to one of the Prophet Muhammad's biggest victories. End note.)

Rejoice oh Community of Islam, for behold the descendents of Tariq and the sons of Uqaba bin Nafi' (note: references to two early Muslim military leaders) have donned the clothing of war, have drawn their swords, and determined that they will not live in comfort and ease until all of the lands of the Muslims are liberated from the non-believers and their agents including the apostate rulers in the wounded land of Islam.

At dawn on Saturday 27 Rabi' al-Thani 1426, i.e. June 4, 2005, the forces of the GSPC carried out an attack that is the first of its kind but not the last. This time they chose as their target a garrison of the Mauritanian apostate army near Al-Zuwairat. The brave Mujahideen surrounded the encampment and after a battle that lasted many hours, the toll, according to some sources was about 50 soldiers killed and wounded. Our brothers were able to take as spoils large quantities of weapons, ammunition and 07 automatics (as printed), and they burned their equipment and returned, thanks be to God, to their bases safely and bearing spoils.

This is the first blow that we strike against the Karzai of Mauritania and the agent of the Jews (Mauritanian President) Ould Taya in revenge for our brothers who were taken prisoner in the recent campaign of arrests in Mauritania. May the tyrants know that their crimes against the Community of Islam will not pass without punishment, indeed they will pay with their blood and their treasure for every Muslim whom they took captive or whose blood they spilled or whose honor they violated.

This is also a blow against the "Flintlock" plan which was arranged by the enemy of God, America, with its agents in the region to combat the GSPC with the aim of extinguishing the embers of Jihad which is spoiling their life.

Oh grandsons of Tariq (note: a reference to Tariq ibn Ziyad, the Muslim conqueror of Spain) and Muslim youth of North Africa, onward to the land of Jihad and preparation in Algeria...come forward to learn the arts of warfare and be liberated from the authority of the tyrants and prepare yourselves to light the fire under the feet of the non-believers and the apostates.
Quranic verse: "Avoid light and heavy things and struggle in

God's path with your wealth and your souls and perhaps you will succeed."

Published Sunday, 28 Rabi' al-Thani 1426 Hijri, equivalent to 05 May (note: a typographical error) 2005 Miladi.

The Media Committee of the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat

End text.

13. (U) Minimize considered.

ERDMAN